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The FUNman, Dept. G-109, FREE BIG PRIZE 5726 N. Broadway, Chicago 40, Ill. FREE CATALOG

Bod Bless

HOME

Please rush to me on 15 days credit 24 Religious Wall Mottos to sell at 35 c each. Also include big Prize Catalog FREE. I will remit amount required as explained under description of prize in BIG PRIZE CATALOG within 15 days and select the prize I want or keep a cash commission as explained

NAME.....AGE.....

STREET or RFD

TOWN.....

.....Zone...STATE.....

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you can secure your enoice of many wonderful prizes. Hurry, send TODAY for 24 Mottos ON TRUST and big PRIZE CATALOG FREE

SEND NO MONEY!...We Trust You!

The FUNman, Dept. G-109, 5726 N. Broadway, Chicago 40, Illinois

ROMANTIC SECRETS

Volume 1, Number 7 April. 1956 Published bimonthly by Charlton Comics Group Executive offices and office of publication, Charlton Building, Derby, Conn. Second Class mailing privileges authorized at the Post Office at Derby, Conn. Price per copy Idc. Subscription IZ issues \$1.20, Copyright 1986 by Charlton Comics Group. Al Fago, Executive Editor (Printed in U.S.A.)

PEG REED FELT THAT THE WORLD WAS AGAINST HER... THAT SOME UNCANNY CONSPIRACY HAD BEEN FORMED TO PREVENT HER HAVING THE ONE THING SHE THOUGHT SHE WANTED MOST, THEN SHE TOOK MATTERS INTO HER OWN SMALL HANDS... AND FOUND THAT SHE POSES SEP A

TRICKY Heavit



EVERYONE I KNEW SEEMED AMAZED AT MY DETERMINATION NOT TO GO TO THE STATE UNIVERSITY AFTER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION BUT MOST OF ALL, KEN EVANS, WHOM I HAD KNOWN ALL MY LIFE . . .

IF WE DON'T GO TO COLLEGE TOGETHER, PEG, I ... I'LL BE LOST! IT'S AS THOUGH YOU WERE A PART OF ME!

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS, KEN . .



IT'S TWO MONTHS BEFORE YOU'LL ENROLL AT THE UNIVERSITY... BY THAT TIME YOU WILL HAVE MADE UP YOUR MIND TO CARRY SOME ONE ELSE'S BOOKS HOME FROM SCHOOL!

























GAIN MORE WEI DUR MONE



MEN ARE OFTEN ASHAMED TO STRIP FOR SPORTS OR FOR A SWIMI

GIRLS ARE NOT ALLURING AND DON'T HAVE EYE CATCHING CURVESI CHILDREN WHO WON'T EAT AND ARE UNDER-

WEIGHT, OFTEN CALLED SKINNYI

We don't want

at last More-Wate plan that puts firm, attractive pounds and inches on your body, chest, arms and legs.



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Mail the coupon now! Test the amazing MORE-WATE tablet plan for 10 days at our expense. If after 10 days your friends, your mirror and your scale do not tell you that you have gained weight and look better you pay nothing!

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NAME.....ADDRESS.....

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AS A DOCTOR AND MAN OF SCIENCE, I SHOULD HAVE HAD MORE PETACHMENT MORE OBJECTIVITY WHEN THE BLOW FELL. BUT WHEN I LOST MONA, I FELT I HAD LOST THE WORLD, HER FACE WAS EVERYWHERE BEFORE ME. HOW COULD I BE CONSOLED BY A ...

NEW ALGE





WHEN I TOLD MISS ROBERTS WHAT I WOULD PO, SHE MEREL NODERS POOR SOLL BE-ING SO DISFIGURED, HOW COLLD SHE NOT WANT A BEALTHFUL FACE? I WENT TO WORK GUILCHLY EAGERLY, INSPIREDLY.



THE DAY
ARRIVED,
MONTHS LATER,
WHEN THE BANDAGES WERE REMOVED MISS
ROBERTS STAKED
AT HER NEW FACE
IN SHOCKED
PISBELIEF...



BEAUTIFUL ISN'T IT? I KNOW THE ORIGINAL OF THAT FACE I FELL IN LOVE WITH IT. BUT THE GIRL SPURNED MY DEVOTION. I NEVER UNDER-STOOD WHY.











THAS FED UP WITH THE SHAM, THE GLOSS! I WAS GOING AWAY! AND THE SUB

THE PARTING GULL

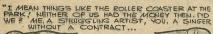


























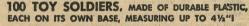






SHE WAS RIGHT! IT HAD BEEN ME WHO WANTED TO SPLASH THE MOUND! AND ALL THE WHILE I WAS BLAMWS HER! I FOUND HER LIPS -- SHE WAS AS SWEET AS EVER!





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- FUN TO COLLECT



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THE MESSAGE

By Irene Smith



EVER had Pru seen the Mississippi River so still, nor quite so beautiful. Turning, as her father came out of the little cabin, she pointed first to the water, then to the old dilapidated buildings lining the shore. "And some folks say we're crazy to make our home on an old barge. People sure are funny, Pop. They're the ones who are crazy, living huddled together in tenements like rabbits huddled in warrens."

"Maybe they're as pleased with their warrens as we are with this barge." He sat down,
a big, heavily tanned man with surprisingly
delicate hands. "I wouldn't cry anymore if I
were you." He touched her cheek gently,
adoration gleaming in his eyes. "Tears only
spoil a girl's beauty. Tears don't change things.
They have no effect upon the future. Try to
forget it."

"Forget it?" Her little chin came forward belligerently as she darted a truly murderous giance at the faded red warehouse two blocks down the shore. "He lied to me, Pop! He lied to me and made a fool of me and—and then fared me. How can I forget something like that? Why, he's nothing but a—a horrid monster!"

Trembling, as the tears rose to her bright black eyes again, she rose and rushed into the cabin. "Vincent," her heart moaned, "Vincent, why? Everything was so beautiful. Don't you remersher the Mardi Gras? Don't you remember all those afternoons and evenings since the Mardi Gras? Don't you remember the kisses, the soft words we said to one another?"

But there was no answer to the question, just as there had been no answer to the question when she had talked to him that morning. "Why?" He had shrugged, a strange expression marring the rugged handsomeness of

his face. "Just because we don't need you anymore, Miss Gordon. Business isn't as good as it was. We have to cut down somewhere, and you're the last person we took on."

He said it just as though she were just another employee. As though he had never called her beautiful in the glow of the Louisiana moon, as though he had never said he cared for her.

"Business isn't bad at all, Mr. Hegel," she had stormed. "Why-why every desk is full of orders."

But he had refused to discuss the matter further. He refused to go into the real reason he was firing her.

"They're all monsters!" she raged as her father came into the cabin. "Do you hear? They're all monsters."

"Really?" He sat down before his easel, chuckling, and studied the girl in the painting—the girl in pedal-pushers with brown bare feet and a happy expression on her face. "You know," he said gently, "you are much prettier in the painting than you are now. This might be a masterpiece, do you know that? I knew I was smart to quit that job, buy this old barge and take up painting in earnest. Now if I could just get rid of you, life would be tranquil and perfect. No more stormings. No more ugly tears. Peace and quiet. It soundswonderful."

SHE dried her tears with the back of her hand. "You won't get aid of me, so there. I've learned my lesson. I was silly to take an office job, silly to leave our barge. Do you know what New Orleans is? It's a jungle world—devour or be devoured—with people using you' and hurting you."

"And loving you, perhaps?"

"Making love to other women behind my back, perhaps. I saw her at the door of his office. I saw her!"

"Or maybe, my stormy petrel, you saw nothing. Maybe you were blind in a way that a girl in love should never be."

"At the door of his office, I saw her smiling at him, winking at him, as though they had a secret they were gloating over. As though—"

"It seems," he said quietly, "that there was a secret. You might go out on deck and use your eyes for a change."

She swallowed hard, then rose in obedience to the command of his eyes. "Pop—"

"Outside, Pru. Really, I thought you youngsters were smart. I thought—" he broke off laughing as she darted from the cabin.

RU stopped suddenly. There stood the tall strikingly attractive woman Pru had seen smiling and winking at Vincent Hegel at the door of his office. "You get off my barge," she raged. "You get off my barge at once, Miss Koskins."

"Gladly, Pru. I never could stand the turbulent sea. But before I go, it seems that the boss wants you to have dinner with him."

Pru gulped as her anger was replaced by quivering joy within her. "He—he does?"

Miss Koskins' smile became broader. "He wasn't being fair to the other girls at the office, Pru. It seems that he was so in love with one particular stenographer that he was giving her all the breaks. So, being a fair man, he fired her for another reason, too. I think he fired her because he doesn't approve of wives working."

Pru's breath quickened. "He—he told you to tell me that, Miss Koskins?"

"He told me to straighten the matter out as

best I could. He told me—well, in a sense that is a message from him, Pru. About that dinner.

I would—"

But Pru wasn't listening. A slim attractive creature with a rosy face and sparkling eyes was already running up the gangplank to the pier and along the shore to the faded red warehouse she had left in tears only a few short hours ago. But there were no tears now. Now there was a song in her throat to match the wild singing of her blood and pounding heart. "Upstairs!" she cried to the elevator man. "Tony, upstairs as fast as you can make it!"

And then the world became good again. For there in the hall stood Vincent, his lean handsome face anxious.

"Miss Koskins said-"

"Miss Koskins said too much, blast her. She was the one who started all this. She was the one who told me I had to fire you if I expected to maintain the high morale of the office workers."

UT it didn't matter. They were together again. And that did matter!

"I had to put it the way I did. I couldn't explain until this afternoon when I got this, Pru," and he slipped something into her hand.

Pru stared wide-eyed at the diamond ring in the little blue velvet box. The thunder of her heart grew louder and louder in her ears. "An engagement ring," she cried, "and I thought you had stopped loving me. I—I thought you and Miss Koskins—"

"Stopped loving you?" he cupped her face tenderly between his hands. "Next time, don't run away so quickly. Let me prove the way I feel," and, bending down, he kissed her there in the middle of the hall.

THE END

THEY CALLED ME A 'GRIND' IN SCHOOL BECAUSE I STUDIED WHILE MOST OF THE GANS WAS OUT HAVING A GOOD THME! BUT I WAS AT THE TOP OF MY CLASS AND I DIDN'T NEED TO STUDY AS MICH AS I DID! THE REAL REASON WHY I STAYED HOME WAS BECAUSE I HAD...





I WAS MISERABLE -- I LIKED TO ENJOY LIFE BUT I'D NEVER LEARNED HOW -- SO I PRE-TENDED TO LIKE BEING A GRADE A DRIP...





DON'S PAL WAS WAITING IN HIS CAR --MINUTES LATER THEY WERE AT THE DANCE! TO HIS SURPRISE, DON FOUND HIMSELF LIKING THE DEAL...





Abandoned LOVE

HELLO, RIVERVIEW!
I KNOW I'M GOING TO
LIKE YOU. A CITY GIRL
SHOULD CERTAINLY
CREATE A SPLASH IN
SUCH A SLEEPY
OLD BURG.

THERE YOU GO
AGAIN, MEG, JUMPING
TO CONCLUSIONS. EVER
SINCE YOU WERE A CHILD,
IT'S BEEN THE
SAME!

aking things for granted is akin to gambling with Destiny... and the odds are all against you! Meg Martin was foolish enough to regard anticipated events as occurrences; and unuttered words as already said. Even with love at stake, she persisted in this headstrong attitude and found too late that heartbreak awaited her....s

Dad had just been promoted to the district managership of the Ironclad Credit

Ironclad Credi
Company,
and we had
moved from
the big city
into the
former
manager's
house in
the little
town of
Riverview.

DON'T BE ANGRY. WELL, NEITHER OF DAD. I JUST MEANT YOU WILL LIKE IT THAT I'M GOING TO STRAIGHTENED OUT BE HAPPY HERE. COME ON, YOU IDLERS



OF ALL THINGS TO FORGET-A HAMMER! MEG, WILL YOU TAKE A RUN DOWN TO THE HARDWARE STORE AND PICK ONE UP? SURE WILL, DAD. NEED ANYTHING ELSE?



STATEMENT EXQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1917, AS AMENUED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 2 1933, AND JULY 2, 1944 (THE 2), Usual State Odd. Seuse 1933 SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF ECHANTIC SECRETS

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Buttones Manager - John Bandagelo, Deriv. Oran.

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to and subscribed before me this 20th day of Spitemint, 1865, Publick (EEAL) Belowed A. Hardi (Notary Publick (No committees or spites April 4, 1865)



I walked off -certain that the other girl was Tom's date and he wouldn't have a chance to devote himself to me. But as the

days passed without my seeing Tom again I began to regret my hasty action. Then one Saturday

morning ...

HELLO, MEG MARTIN! WANT A GUIDE TO WHY, I'D LOVE IT. BUT-ER-WOULD YOUR GIRL -SHOW YOU FRIEND OUR COUNTRY APPROVE?



YOU MEAN THE GIRL YOU MET THE OTHER NIGHT? OF COURSE, SHE'D ESPECIALLY SINCE APPROVE! SHE'S TED

PHILLIPS' WELL, THEN, I ACCEPT FIANCÉE! YOUR OFFER, KIND -FASHIONED CHARM ABOUT RIVERVIEW THAT



WELL, JUST WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE THE BEAUTIFUL HOMES WE HAVE TUCKED AWAY OUTSIDE OF LET'S GO! THIS TOWN .

PATH LOOKS INVITING!

OH, THAT -- IT'S CALLED

Our walks became almost a ritual every weekend after that.

The wind, the tolling hills. the scudding cloudsand Tom by my sidegave life a zest I'd never known before. Then one day, he took me to the river... HOW DO YOU LIKE IT? I JUST PUT OR CHRISTOPHER THROUGH A BIG DEAL WITH A SMALL BOY AND BOUGHT THIS YACHT. HE SWORE IT WAS J.P. MORGAN'S, GET BACK WITHOUT

COLUMBUS! DO YOU THINK WE'LL DROWNING

And soon ... FAIRBURY. IT'S A TOM -- WHAT A GRAND PLACE BUT LOOK OVER RATHER RUN-DOWN. IT'S FOR SALE, 'THERE! .. INCIDENTALLY.



Later, when we returned. I tripped, and the next thing I knew Tom's powerful arms were around me and his lips met mine in a kiss that was unexpectedly Sweet. He held me firmly but carefully, as though he were

holding something precious ...

MEG! MEG, DEAR! I WAS AFRAID YOU'D HURT YOURSELF AND I CAN'T HAVE ANYTHING HAPPEN TO YOU. YOU'RE



I'M - I'M

ALL RIGHT,

We walked slowly back to town-content in the closeness only two people in love can know. And then, after he left me. I went to the town's real estate agency and ...

... AND IF IT'S HUMANLY POSSIBLE, MR. SAUNDERS ... COULD YOU KEEP FAIRBURY OFF THE MARKET A FEW DAYS? YOU JUST CAN'T SELL IT TO ANYONE ELSE!

I'LL BE GLAD TO HOLD IT FOR YOU, MISS MARTIN!



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DINNER



Once inside. my mind was busy assigning a room for Tom's den. my room, and planning how I'd furnish the living room.

And as I spoke. I sensed that Tom's gay mood had vanished and he was obviously illat-ease. Then ...





But the days passed slowly—with no word from Fom. Then one evening at the Literary

HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN A WEEK.
I HEARD HE'S GONE OUT OF
TOWN. SAY-DID YOU HEAR
WE'RE GETTING ROD

STEPHENS TO

SPEAK 3

ROD STEPHENS!
HOW WONDERFUL!
HIS "KNELL OF PARTING DAY" WAS A TERRIFIC BOOK!

THEN TOM DIDN'T LOVE ME, AFTER ALL... I'LL = I'LL FORGET HIM - IN TIME. Then the meeting was called to order, and ---

I'M VERY HAPPY TO TELL YOU THAT RODNEY STEPHENS
WILL SPEAK TO US NEXT WEEK. AND WE'LL HAVE TO ARRANGE
WHERE HE WILL STAY... YES, MISS MARTIN?



Then, a week later, Rod Stephens

Then, a week later, Rod Stephens spoke and was a tremendous success...

MAY I HAYE SELVES AWAY AND HEAD FOR HOME, MISS



As we drove home, I was alone with Rod Stephens for the first time.

And, as
I looked at
his handsome
profile.

I knew a
Sudden hope
that maybe he
would give me
the chance to
forget Tom.
And then...

YOU KNOW -- MES - COMING IN ON THE TRAIN TOPAY, I THOUGHT THIS A HEAVEN-TOUCHED COUNTRYSIDE AND I SUPPENY REALIZED -- A MAN HAS GOT TO SETTLE DOWN -- SOMETIME.



The next few days, we walked everywhere, and the bond of our friendship grew stronger. He said nothing, really, but I sensed that he cared and often I would intercept his glance upon me...



ARE YOU PSYCHIC, MEG?
THAT'S THE VERY PLACE I'VE
BEEN LOUME FOR. I'VE
PRACTICALLY DESCRIBED IT
BOARD BY BOARD IN MY LATEST
BOOK! HOW DID YOU
DISCOVER

IT?

OH, ER,
WITH - WITH
A FRIEND.

As Rod enthused. I recalled sadly, in spite of myself, how I had a dream of ... of Tom and me in this house. But I pushed those disturbing memories from my mind and ...









In no time.
Word of Rod's
decision had
spread, and
I denied none
of the
implications
of his purchase

of his purchase
of Fairbury
for in my
heart
I was sure
he would
Soon return

and say the thrilling words
I was so certain he had suggested!











Tom told me that when he saw how much Fairbury meant to me, he determined to get it as a surprise for me. He had only a little money . but a chain Store had bid high for his place, and he went to the city to Complete the deal ...

THEY ASKED ME TO STAY AS MANAGE FOR THEM, SO I HAD TO GO TO SCHOOL AND LEARN THEIR METHODS. THE MINUTE I GOT BACK TO TOWN, I LAID THE MONEY ON SAUNDES/DESK FOR FAIRBURY - TOO LATE!



To me, Tom's Searing words rang a death knell for our love. Mother's warning that I assumed too much came back to me. But there was no point in remembering it now. Besides, there Was Rod ... his train was due anv minute...







I couldn't believe my eves as Rod turned away, and assisted the Loveliest girl I'd ever seen off the train! I choked back my tears ... there must be some mistake ... but I knew there was none when she





ROD NEVER SAID ONE SINGLE
MORK THAT SHOULD HAVE MADE
ME BELIEVE HE LOVED ME! AND
CERTAINLY HE NEVER BREATHED
MARKIAGE! YET, THROUGH ALL
THIS FOOLISH SCHEMING, IT'S
TOM I LOVED! BUT AGAIN
WITH HIM I WAS TOO
HASTY... ASSUMING
HE DIDN'T CARE.

But losing Tom was not to be my sole punishment in the days that followed...

OH, BROTHER, I'LL BET MEG MUST FEEL SILLY EVERY TIME SHE SEES ROD STEPHENS AND



OH, TOM, I

YES - I DO FEEL SILLY... WORSE THAN
SILLY. BUT I DESERVE ALL THE
RIDICULE. I BROUGHT IT UPON
MYSELF BY ASSUMING
7 THINGS THAT WEREN'T



Ashamed
of my
outburst,
I ran
from the
store.
Suddenly
a firm
hand
gripped
my
shoulder...



MEG! I OVERHEARD ...



7 AWOKE ONE MORNING TO FIND THAT MY HAPPY ROMANCE WITH KEN FARREL HAD COME TO A BITTER END! BUT SOMEHOW I COLLON'T BELIEVE IT WAS TRUE! AND SO, WITH HOPE IN MY HEART! I WATED ANXIOUSLY THE RETURN OF ...











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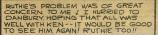












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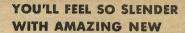












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There is nothing as adjustable as a laced front belt and Abdo-Lift has been the favorite of thousands who will wear nothing else.

It's so easy to take in your front bulge and have a real flat front with Abdo-Lift. But when you want relaxed comfort just loosen the laces and feel easy and free.

EXTRA FLY FRONT HIDES LACES

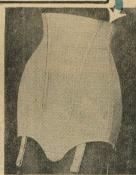
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TWO STYLES Open front Abdo-Lift comes in two styles ✓ regular

or panty > brief-the latter with a detachable crotch piece. Try either style and see how it improves your appearance.

for waist sizes 22-37

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